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THE ARIZONA SWEEPSTAKES

Photoplay in six reels

Story by Charles Logue

Directed by Clifford S. Smith

Author of photoplay (under Sec. 62)
Universal Pictures Corporation of the U. S.

"THE ARIZONA SWEEPSTAKES"

A Universal-Jewel Production.....Starring Hoot Gibson

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Coot Calligan, a cowboy in town to bring a bunch of cattle to the stockyards, witnesses a fake fight, enacted for a group of tourists doing Chinatown. He leaps from the sightseeing bus and cleans out the gang, in this way meeting Stuffy, one of the ring leaders, and learning of the frame-up between the toughs and the bus company. They give Coot a job at ten dollars a night to do his specialty.

There is a war between the rival gangs for the easy graft from the sightseeing company. Stuffy's gang is expecting a desperado named Chicago Red to lead them in combat. Coot, thinking it another faked affair, fires into the air for fun. A man falls from the balcony, shot by Chicago Red. From Coot's actions it is assumed by bystanders that he is the notorious gunman. He narrowly escapes arrest and goes with Stuffy to his home where he meets the hard boiled McGee kids. Coot is warned that the police are looking for him and beats it, leaving the kids on Coot's hands. Coot takes them to the ranch.

Meanwhile, Johnathan Carey, a rancher, has purchased a race horse to enter the long distance run for the Comanche cup. Carey is in love with Nell Savery, Colonel Savery's daughter. When Coot arrives at the ranch with the kids, Carey is showing the new horse to Nell. He fires Coot for staying away so long and Coot takes his wild horse and leaves, the Colonel inviting Coot to work for him.

The children are welcomed by the Widow McGuire, the colonel's cook, and when Stuffy arrives, sets her cap for him.

Carey has learned that there is a search for the man guilty of the city shooting and suspects Coot. When Stuffy inquires for Coot at Carey's ranch, he naturally takes him for a detective and confides his suspicion. Stuffy promises to watch Coot.

Coot has confided to Nell his cause for alarm over the shooting. When the real detective arrives and faces Stuffy, the bogus sleuth, but with the aid of Stuffy's wise kids, he and Coot escape.

Coot, knowing that the colonel and his daughter are in financial straights, returns to ride in the race, giving himself to the sheriff, who agrees to parole him on his honor until the race is over. He wins the race, with Carey as his closest contender, and as Coot is about to fulfill his bargain with the sheriff, word comes that Chicago Red has confessed to the murder, and Coot finds himself free, flush, and in love with a girl who loves him.

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